

Preliminary Amendment
Serial No.: filed concurrently
October 27, 2000

line 12, change "a fiber" to /-a natural fiber

A₁₂ and/or a regenerated fiber^v.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2, 5, 11, 19, 21, and 27 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

Please amend claims 1, 3-4, 6-8, 10, 12, 14-15, 17, 20, 22, 24 and 26 as follows:

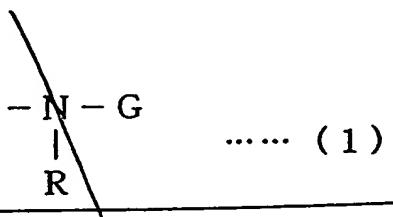
Please amend claim 1 as follows:

-- 1. (Amended) A chelate-forming filter comprising, at least as a portion of a filter material, [a chelate-forming fiber having a] at least one chelate-forming functional group being introduced into a [fiber] molecule of a natural fiber and/or a regenerated fiber, said chelate-forming functional group being selected from:

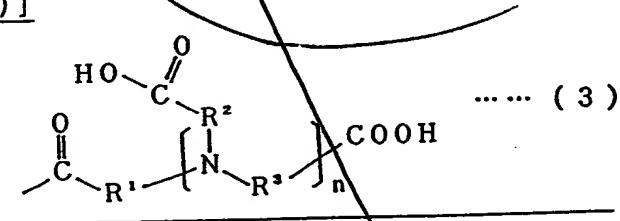
a group represented by the following general formula (1) and having an amino group and at least two hydroxyl groups combined with carbons, and

an acyl group represented by the following general formula (3):

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[wherein G represents a residue of a chain sugar alcohol or a residue of a polyhydric alcohol, and R represents a hydrogen atom, a (lower) alkyl group or -G (wherein G has the same meaning as defined above and may be a group identical to or different from the aforementioned G)]



(wherein each of R¹, R² and R³ represents a lower alkylene group, and n denotes an integer of 1 to 4). --

In claim 3, line 1, change "claim 2" to --claim 1--.

In claim 4, line 1, change "claim 2" to --claim 1--.

In claim 6, lines 1-2, change "one of claims 1 to 5" to --claim 1--.

In claim 7, lines 1-2, change "one of claims 2 to 4 and 6" to --claim 1--.

In claim 8, lines 1-2, change "one of claims 5 and 6" to --claim 1--.

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In claim 10, lines 1-2, change "one of claims 1 to 9" to
--claim 1--.

In claim 12, lines 1-2, change "one of claims 1 to 4, 6, 7,
10, and 11" to --claim 1--.

In claim 14, lines 1-2, change "one of claims 1, 5, 6, 8 to
11" to --claim 1--.

In claim 15, lines 3-4, change "one of claims 1 to 14" to
--claim 1--.

Please amend claim 17 as follows:

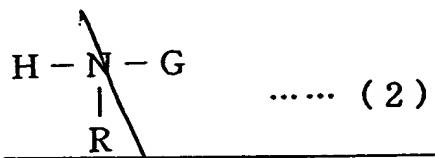
17. (Amended) A process for producing a chelate-forming filter, comprising the steps of processing a natural fiber and/or a regenerated fiber into a filter, said fiber having, in a molecule, a functional group being reactive with a chelate-forming compound, and allowing the reactive functional group in said fiber molecule to react with:

an amine compound represented by the following general formula (2) and/or

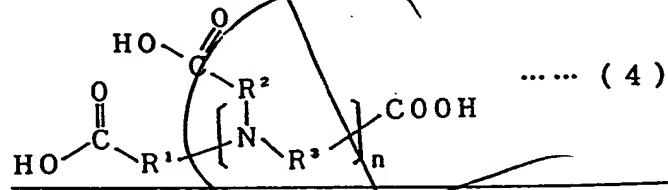
an acid anhydride of a polycarboxylic acid represented by the following general formula (4)

[a chelate-forming compound having a functional group being reactive with said functional group] to thereby introduce a chelate-forming functional group into said fiber molecule

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(wherein G and R have the same meanings as defined above)



(wherein each of R^1 , R^2 , and R^3 represents a lower alkylene group, and n denotes an integer of 1 to 4). A

In claim 20, line 2, change "claim 19" to --claim 17--.

In claim 22, line 2, change "claim 21" to --claim 17--.

In claim 24, line 2, insert --claim 23-- following "according to";

line 5, change "compound" to --compound.--; and
delete lines 6-8.

In claim 26, line 2, change "one of claims 17 to 25" to
--claim 17--.

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 2, 5, 11, 19, 21 and 27 have been cancelled, and the specification and claims 1, 3-4, 6-8, 10, 12, 14-15, 17, 20, 22, 24 and 26 have been amended. Currently,